

## Sea Cadets to demonstrate skills at expo Saturday

By Jasiri Whipper (Contact)

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Mike Singer wants to spread the word about Sea Cadets.

Particularly the Hunley- Yorktown Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

The Sea Cadet Corps is a civilian youth organization for boys and girls ages 13-17 who want to learn about military careers at sea.

Singer, who is not in the military, has two sons in the program and serves as the Hunley-Yorktown group's commanding officer.

Singer said the Sea Cadets program instills discipline and work ethic in its participants while exposing youths to possible careers in the military.



Debbie Singer

"It's a really great youth program for those who don't know what they want to do after high school," Singer said. "This will help them decide."

On Saturday, the Hunley-Yorktown Division will hold a cadet expo 1-3 p.m. at Marrington Plantation at the Charleston Naval Weapons Station in Goose Creek.

At the expo, current Sea Cadets will lead demonstrations of physical fitness challenges, hand-to-hand combat and marksmanship.

Singer said most activities will be hands-on, and visitors are welcome to join the cadets in exercises.

There will be a question-and-answer period, and officials with Hunley-Yorktown will be on hand to sign up interested candidates.

The Hunley-Yorktown Sea Cadets meet once a month for a weekend of drills and cadet training at the aircraft carrier Yorktown in Charleston Harbor. Singer said the bulk of training happens during the summer in boot camps around the country.

Founded in 1958, the objectives of the Sea Cadet program are to introduce youths to naval life; develop in them a sense of pride, patriotism, courage and self-reliance; and maintain an environment free of drugs, according to its Web site.

Nicholas Bostic of Goose Creek has been a Sea Cadet for several years.

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This past summer, the Goose Creek High School senior was aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Dallas, based in Charleston.

The trip took him to far-flung locales such as Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Colombia and the Cayman Islands.

In an essay about the trip, Bostic, 17, details his experiences at sea, which included steering the ship, cleaning the deck, docking boats and participating in drills.

Because of his experience this summer aboard the Dallas, Bostic plans to apply to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn.

"I have developed a better understanding of what a sailor does at sea," Bostic said in his essay. "I got to experience firsthand what it is like to serve in the U.S. military and what those members give up to protect us."

Bostic is one of 20 active members in the Hunley-Yorktown Division.

For information, visit [www.hyseacadets.org](http://www.hyseacadets.org).

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